

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 274569

15

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 CU-02 EB-07 COME-00

CIEP-01 OMB-01 STR-01 AGR-05 AID-05 /093 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:JSDAVISON:RM

APPROVED BY EUR:RDVINE

C:NTERRELL

S/S:JMEALUM

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 274569

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EDC, PO, FR

SUBJECT: US-EC CONSULTATIONS

REFS: PARIS 29122, 29123, 29124, 29125

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

1. IN YOUR NEXT MEETING WITH DE MARGERIE IN CONTEXT OF
US-EC POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WHICH YOU SHOULD REQUEST
TAKE PLACE TOWARD END OF WEEK BEGINNING DECEMBER 16, WE
ASSUME THAT HE WILL WISH TO REVIEW RESULTS OF EC SUMMIT.
YOU SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING RE PORTUGAL, GREECE AND OTHER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 274569

TOPICS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS WHICH AROSE IN YOUR

DECEMBER 3 MEETING, NOTING OUR ASSUMPTION THAT THESE COMMENTS WILL ALSO BE TRANSMITTED TO OTHER EIGHT COUNTRIES.

2. PORTUGAL.

QUESTION: HOW DID PORTUGUESE LEADERS REACT TO US EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN REGARDING INFLUENCE OF COMMUNISTS AND OTHER FAR LEFTISTS IN CERTAIN SENSITIVE SECTORS?

ANSWER: THE PORTUGUESE UNDERSTAND OUR CONCERNS BUT BELIEVE THAT EXAGGERATED PRESS ACCOUNTS OF EVENTS IN PORTUGAL HAVE GIVEN US A DISTORTED VIEW OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN THEIR COUNTRY. THE PORTUGUESE HAVE NOT REACTED IN A NATIONALISTIC

FASHION AND, IN FACT, HAVE MADE CLEAR THEIR VIEW THAT SUCH DIFFERENCES SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN A FRIENDLY AND CANDID MANNER.

QUESTION: WOULD THE ABSENCE OF US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE LIKELY LEAD TO A NATIONALISTIC PORTUGUESE REACTION HARMFUL TO US INTERESTS?

ANSWER: THE ABSENCE OF WESTERN (NOT MERELY US) ECONOMIC AND MORAL SUPPORT FOR PORTUGAL COULD WELL BE REGARDED BY THE PORTUGUESE AS REPRESENTING A LACK OF INTEREST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE DEMOCRATIC FUTURE OF THAT COUNTRY AND COULD LEAD TO A SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN FOREIGN POLICY. SUCH LACK OF SUPPORT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTING TO THE MODERATE DEMOCRATIC AND NON-COMMUNIST ELEMENTS IN PORTUGAL.

QUESTION: HOW LONG DO WE EXPECT THE NEGOTIATIONS TO LAST ON THE AZORES BASE AGREEMENT?

ANSWER: THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOW IN PROGRESS BUT HAVE NOT YET REACHED THE "HARD BARGAINING" STAGE. WE HOPE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE PORTUGUESE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT, BASED UPON THE SLOW PACE AT WHICH THE TALKS HAVE MOVED THUS FAR, FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE HOW LONG THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL LAST.

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PAGE 03 STATE 274569

3. ON GREEK-TURKISH ISSUES, YOU SHOULD SAY:

A) PRIOR TO MAKARIOS' RETURN TO CYPRUS, THERE WERE REPORTS THAT THE TURKS WERE CONSIDERING NEW MILITARY ACTION ON THE ISLAND WHICH WOULD INVOLVE "LIBERATING" THE TURKISH-CYPRIOIS LIVING IN THE SOUTH AND ESCORTING THEM TO THE TURKISH-CONTROLLED ZONE IN THE NORTH. IN OUR VIEW, SUCH

ACTION IS UNLIKELY UNLESS THE SAFETY OF THOSE TURKISH-CYPRIOTS IS CLEARLY ENDANGERED.

B) WE HAVE BEEN PLEASED THAT MAKARIOS' RETURN HAS SO FAR NOT SPARKED ANY INCIDENTS ON THE ISLAND AND THAT HE TOOK A GENERALLY MODERATE LINE IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC ADDRESS. HE STILL APPEARS TO BE ADAMANTLY OPPOSED, HOWEVER, TO ANY SETTLEMENT WHICH INVOLVES DIVIDING THE ISLAND INTO TWO MAIN ZONES, AND IT IS UNCLEAR HOW MUCH LEEWAY HE WILL GRANT CLERIDES IN NEGOTIATING WITH DENKTASH. THE US STILL STRONGLY FAVORS THE CLERIDES-DENKTASH TALKS AS A WAY OF MAKING PROGRESS TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, AND IT HAS URGED BOTH THE GREEK AND TURKISH GOVERNMENTS TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO THESE TALKS.

C) AS FOR THE TURKS TAKING ACTION OUTSIDE OF THE IMMEDIATE CONTEXT OF CYPRUS, WE RECOGNIZE THAT MANY GREEKS FEAR SUCH ACTION IN THE AEGEAN AREA, BUT WE HAVE SEEN NO SIGNS INDICATING THAT TURKS ARE PLANNING ANY AGGRESSIVE MOVES.

4. ON QUESTION OF SPAIN, EMBASSY MAY DRAW UPON MADRID 7568, 7491, AND 7024, ALL OF WHICH ARE OF RECENT VINTAGE AND AVAILABLE IN PARIS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS, BASKET III
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE274569
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JSDAVISON:RM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740363-0891
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741234/aaaabcul.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 PARIS 29122, 74 29123, 74 29124, 74 29125
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <28 MAR 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-EC CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PO, FR
To: PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005